

- 16** Louis Fuldner House, 914 S. 4th St. (1874-75) Architect: Henry C. Koch. NR.
Herman Fuldner House, 906-908 S. 4th St. (1890) Architect: H. P. Schnetzky.

Early neighborhood businessman Louis Fuldner founded his wholesale liquor and rectifying business in 1855. He built this substantial home four years before his death. Family members lived in the house through 1920. Like his German contemporaries on S. 3rd St., Fuldner preferred a simple Italianate style for his house with embellishment confined to ornamental brackets and an elaborate front porch (since removed).

Louis' nephew, Herman Fuldner, built the finely crafted Queen Anne style house next door (No. 906-908) after he took over the family business. Note the house's asymmetrical massing and contrast of rich materials including the graceful iron balcony and balustrade at the second story.

- 17** Vieau School, 823 S. 4th St. (1894) Architect: Ferry & Clas; addition (1928-1929), Guy Wiley. NR.

Unique among Milwaukee's public school buildings is the design of the south half of this structure, originally known as the 5th District Primary School. It replaced a circa-1874 school building that had stood on this site. Prestigious architects Ferry & Clas designed the building with distinctive Flemish gables trimmed with terra cotta. The north addition, in brown brick, was built in the late 1920s and was designed by school board architect Guy Wiley. In 1927 the school was renamed for Jacques Vieau, father-in-law of city father Solomon Juneau, and Milwaukee's best-known pioneer fur trader.

- 18** Crandall / Magann Doublehouse, 820-824 S. 4th St. (1900) Architect: O.C. Uehling. NR.

Once a common building type in Walker's Point, this brick Italianate doublehouse is one of just a few such structures to survive in the neighborhood. Tax rolls show it was built in 1870. George O. Crandall, who occupied the north half through 1891, had a varied career that included operating a clothing store, working as a policeman, a bill collector, and lastly as a real estate and insurance agent. Edwin W. Magann lived in the south half through 1885 and went from selling insurance to being the proprietor of the Milwaukee Daily News and later the superintendent of the Post Office. The simple structure features brick hoods over the windows and a small cupola that is not easily visible from the street.

- 19** Olof Anderson House, 808-810 S. 4th St. (1890). NR.

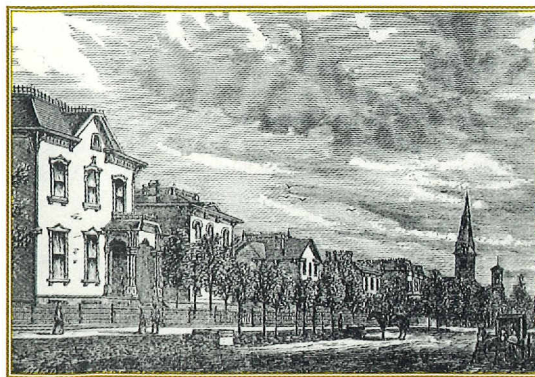
A Great Lakes captain and grocer, Olof Anderson once lived on the corner in a house facing National Avenue, but later built this fine Colonial Revival residence in what had been his back yard. An uncommon style in the neighborhood, this Colonial Revival house features a cross gabled gambrel roof with dormers, delicate leaded glass transoms, and rather delicate turned balusters.

- 20** Holy Trinity / Our Lady Of Guadalupe Roman Catholic Church, 605 S. 4th St. (1849-50) Architect: Victor Schulte. Steeple added 1862, Leonard Schmidner; Holy Trinity Rectory, 613 S. 4th St. (1892) Architect: Schnetzky & Liebert; Holy Trinity School, 621 S. 4th St. (1867). Holy Trinity Convent, 423 W. Bruce St. (1888) Architect: Schnetzky & Liebert. NR.

Holy Trinity Church was the first Roman Catholic congregation on the South Side and the city's second German congregation, indicative of the large number of Germans then living in the neighborhood. In 1966, reflecting the changing ethnicity of the neighborhood, Holy Trinity merged with Milwaukee's first Spanish-speaking parish, Our Lady of Guadalupe. Victor Schulte, who was also the architect of St. John's Cathedral and Old St. Mary's Church downtown, designed this structure in the Classical Revival style. Woodcarver Aegidius Hacker produced the elaborate altars in 1890. The Italianate style school building is one of the oldest extant school structures in the city.

- 21** Stoddard Martin House, 418 S. 4th St. (1843-46).

Early Walker's Point pioneer Stoddard Martin was a carpenter contractor and draftsman and is thought to have built this residence himself. It is the oldest known wood frame house in the neighborhood. Although sided with asphalt today, the simple pioneer Greek Revival style structure features a pilaster-framed entrance and a front gable with cornice returns.



Above: 800 block of South 3rd Street from Milwaukee Illustrated, 1877.

Front cover: Emil Durr House, 821 South Third Street, c. 1920's.

(Courtesy of Mrs. Adelaide Durr Miller)

Inside: William Howard House, 910 South 3rd St.

(Photographer Paul S. Pagel)

Brochures in this series include:

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Kilbourntown

Walker's Point: Commercial and Industrial Buildings Tour

West End

North Point Neighborhood

Bay View

Key to symbols:

NR National Register of Historic Places
ML Milwaukee Landmark
HPC Designated by the Historic Preservation Commission of Milwaukee, successor to the Milwaukee Landmarks Commission

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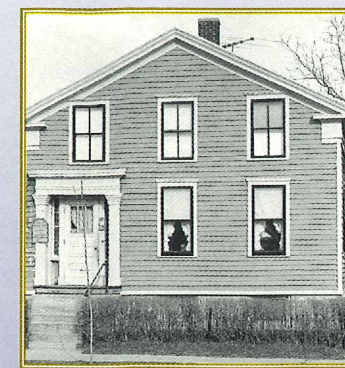


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Milwaukee Historic Buildings Tour Walker's Point



A self-guided
driving tour of
historic
residential
buildings in the
Walker's Point
neighborhood



Walker's Point

RESIDENTIAL
BUILDINGS TOUR

A narrow tongue of dry land surrounded by swamp seemed an unlikely place to begin a settlement. However, with a vision equal to that of Solomon Juneau and Byron Kilbourn, George Walker set up his trading cabin overlooking the confluence of the Milwaukee and Menomonee Rivers at a spot near today's E. Seeboth, S. Ferry and S. First Streets. The Virginia-born pioneer came to Wisconsin when he was in his early 20s to seek his fortune. Rotund (300 lbs.), genial and well-liked, Walker was also shrewd. He realized that his 75-foot-wide peninsula was the natural overland gateway from the south to both Juneautown and Kilbourntown. It was its role as the southern access point to the other settlements, the rivers and to Lake Michigan that ultimately ensured the success of Walker's settlement.

Unlike Juneautown, Walker's Point's was not a pioneer boomtown. Settlement proceeded slowly at first. Swamp land had to be filled, and Walker ran into problems obtaining clear title to his 160-acre claim. Claim jumpers and legal entanglements surrounding the land reserved for the Rock River Canal project forced Walker into a 7-year court battle for his land. Congress finally resolved the title in Walker's favor in 1842, but Walker's small settlement had been greatly overshadowed in size and importance by Juneautown and Kilbourntown by the time that the three communities were united to form the City of Milwaukee in 1846.

As Walker's Point evolved, most of the original high and dry peninsula became the prestigious residential thoroughfares of S. 3rd and S. 4th Streets, while industry located in the low-lying, former swamps east of S. 1st Street and north of Virginia Street.

The original point area where Walker's cabin had stood served as the South Side's first commercial center. A railroad depot at Florida and Barclay Streets (1855) and a larger passenger station on S. Second Street (1866-1886) spurred the construction of numerous commercial buildings housing retail shops, wholesalers, hotels and small manufacturers. After the railroad relocated its station to Kilbourntown, manufacturing and wholesaling took over the point, while retail activity shifted south to 5th and National. Many of Milwaukee's most notable industries had their start here: Allis Chalmers, Filer & Stowell, Johnston Co., Nordberg, Kearney & Trecker, Harnischfeger, and Mueller Climatrol.

Densely developed by the turn-of-the-century, Walker's Point had lost its desirability as a residential area and many of its burgeoning industries left for the suburbs where there was room for expansion. Already in 1914 the local Free Press was lamenting the decline of Walker's Point whose position as the center of the South Side had been usurped by Mitchell Street. Fortunately for us today, Walker's Point did not disappear. The original Yankee, German and Scandinavian settlers were followed by Welsh, Irish, Serbian, Croatian and Balkan peoples. Mexicans were brought in to work in the Pfister & Vogel Tannery in the 1920s and other Hispanics followed. The newest residents are immigrants from Southeast Asia who settled in the area in the 1970s.

Today, Walker's Point is the only one of the three original town settlements to retain most of its 19th century character with its mixture of commercial, residential, industrial, religious and educational buildings. Industrial encroachment into the old residential areas has slowed and preservation of the neighborhood's historic character is now emphasized. The historical importance of the neighborhood was acknowledged when a good portion of Walker's Point was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 as Milwaukee's first historic district.

South 3rd Street.

This street was once Walker's Point's most fashionable residential address. Its original name, Hanover Street, is a testament to the large German population that once lived in the neighborhood. Along this thoroughfare can be seen examples of Greek Revival, Federal Style, Italianate, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, and Romanesque Revival houses.

1 Abel Decker Doublehouse, 408-410 S. 3rd St. (1857-58).

Grocer Abel Decker built this structure as two separate dwellings and lived in the south unit. A unique hybrid, the doublehouse exhibits the parapet end walls and simple stone lintels of the Federal style but incorporates Italianate brackets and cornices. This is the last, intact, townhouse style dwelling of its type in the city, although many of them were built in the 1850s and 1860s. It reflects the rowhouse architecture of the eastern U.S. where Milwaukee's pioneer Yankee settlers came from.

2 Milwaukee Technical High School, 319 W. Virginia St. (1911-12, 1913) Architect: William Maxwell; (1917) John Park; (1924) Van Ryn & De Gelleke; (1958-60) Fritz Von Grossman. NR.

Founded as a private venture by the Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association in 1906, Milwaukee Tech was instituted to combine an academic education with training in a skilled trade, a progressive concept for its time. The following year the project was taken over by the city's public school system and was named Milwaukee Public School of Trades for Boys. Originally housed in an old factory building on S. 1st St., the school moved to its present site in 1912. Various additions have been built to the original U-shaped building over the years to accommodate expanded programs. When the admission of female students began in 1972, "Boys Tech" was renamed "Milwaukee Tech." The original three wings of the red brick building fronting Virginia, S. 3rd and S. 4th Sts., are of simplified Classical Revival style and were designed by William W. Maxwell, a member of the tech faculty.

3 Lund-Smith Doublehouse, 608-612 S. 3rd St. (1872) Builder: John Bentley. NR.

Prosperous builder-contractor John Bentley built this distinctive doublehouse to house his two married daughters and their husbands. George Lund was a Great Lakes captain, and Stephen R. Smith worked at the Wolf & Davidson shipyard as a bookkeeper. Rather unique in Milwaukee, this twin-gabled doublehouse has its roots in the semi-detached Gothic Revival style cottages of Bentley's native England. Italianate influences include the segmentally arched windows, the oculi in the gables, and the hoods over the doors.

Bentley, who lived down the street, is also thought to have built the **Friedrich Lauburg House** in 1874-75 (No. 620) and the **Robert Kretschmar House** in 1875 (No. 614). Lauburg was an expressman and Kretschmar a butcher.

4 Humphrey-Thompson House, 634 S. 3rd St. (1868); James Sheriffs House, 640 S. 3rd St. (1868). NR.

Jasper Humphrey had a rich career as lake captain, marine inspector, harbor master, alderman, and merchant. His son-in-law, lake captain Henry W. Thompson, also shared the house. James Sheriffs was the proprietor of an iron foundry that specialized in making propeller wheels and marine machinery. Both of the Italianate houses retain their original cupolas from which the owners could see the lake.

5 Junior House, 710 S. 3rd St. (1913) Architect: Frank Bader.

The notable women's clothing label "J. H. Collectibles" had its start in Milwaukee in 1945 as Junior House. Since 1953 the company has occupied this former printing company factory. The company's design staff and about 600 people work in Milwaukee with a second factory in Missouri and licensed plants around the world.

6 James Ryan Doublehouse, 806-810 S. 3rd St. (1875). NR.

This handsome doublehouse was built as an income property for James Ryan, a little-known figure who seems to have been a grading and sewer contractor. Builder John Bentley later acquired the building. The structure's most famous tenant was poet Carl Sandburg, who lived here briefly in 1909 while temporarily working for Kroeger Bros. Department Store. Typical of the many rowhouses that were built in the vicinity, the main entrances were located high off the ground above raised, English-style basements and were approached by long flights of stairs. The stairs, ornamental porches, and cornices were removed by previous owners.

7 Heliodore Hilbert House, 803 S. 3rd St. (1870), Architect: Henry C. Koch. NR. Emil Schneider House, 813 S. 3rd St. (1870), Architect: John Rugee. NR. Emil Durr House, 821 S. 3rd St. (1875), Architect: John Rugee. NR.

These three dwellings were built by prosperous German-American businessmen. Hilbert was a civil engineer and proprietor of the Minerva Iron Company. Schneider operated a successful wholesale liquor and rectifying business on S. 1st St. Durr ran a wholesale lumber business with his partner, John Rugee. Durr and Hilbert both held numerous civic positions as well. These three houses show variations on the Italianate and Victorian Gothic styles. Durr's house was the most ornate with richly embellished window frames, iron cresting and bargeboard. The Hilbert and Schneider houses both feature ornate brackets, although the Schneider house has lost its richly ornamented porch.

8 Dr. John N. O'Brien House, 828 S. 3rd St. (1888). NR. John Joys House, 834 S. 3rd St. (1885). NR.

Sheboygan native Dr. O'Brien built this handsome Queen Anne style house with its distinctive multi-gabled roof to replace an earlier, smaller frame building on the site. He had his office in the house through the late 1890s when he apparently moved out of Milwaukee. Later used as a rooming house, the building's exterior was restored in the 1980s by the Walker's Point Development Corp. O'Brien's next door neighbor was John Joys whose family operated a successful ship chandling business. The company is still in business today as Laacke & Joys, dealers in marine and sporting goods. Members of the Joys family lived here until the early 1920s. Although much of the Joys' house's detail is hidden under artificial siding, its bays and multiple gables identify this as an example of Queen Anne style architecture.

9 William Howard House, 910 S. 3rd St. (1854). NR.

One of the neighborhood's few documented pre-Civil War houses was built by laborer/engineer William Howard. Originally fronting on Walker St., the house was moved back on its lot and turned to face S. 3rd St. to allow for the construction of the Orville Webber house in 1895 (No. 902). The architrave framing the doorway and the gabled front with frieze returns identify this as a fine and rare example of the pioneer Greek Revival style.

10 George H. Paul Income Properties, 1023, 1029-1031, 1039 S. 3rd St. (1872 and 1875). NR.

These charming Gothic Revival cottages and doublehouse were built as investment properties for George H. Paul. Paul was the well-known proprietor of the *Milwaukee Daily News* and was very active in educational issues. At the end of his life, Paul was embroiled in a political scandal over improper job appointments while he served as postmaster here. Newspaper references indicate that architects Henry Messmer and E. T. Mix were designing income properties for Paul in 1874 and 1875, and one or both were possibly responsible for these structures. The two cottages apparently were identical, but No. 1023 has had its lacy hoods removed from its windows and entrance.

11 Wisconsin Telephone Company Exchange Building / Guadalupe Center, 239 W. Washington St. (1899) Architect: Herman J. Esser. NR.

This handsome building was constructed as the First Branch Telephone Exchange for the Wisconsin Telephone Company, which was then entering a period of great expansion in telephone service. It was last used by the company in 1934 and sat vacant until late 1945 when it was remodeled for use as a church by Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission, Milwaukee's first Spanish speaking parish. When Our Lady of Guadalupe merged with Holy Trinity Parish on S. 4th St. in 1966, the building was converted into a community center housing a Head Start program and other educational and recreational activities for children. The arched window openings, pilasters, and pedimented entrance identify this as an example of the Classical Revival style.

12 Ferdinand Stamm House, 1126 S. 3rd St. (1873); John Scheuerell House, 1132 S. 3rd St. (1874). NR.

These two Italianate residences share the same simple lines and unornamented window openings as the Schneider house up the street and possibly were also built by the neighborhood's resident architect/builder John Rugee. Ferdinand Stamm was a Prussian native who operated a hardware and tinware firm and owned this property until 1888. His neighbor John Scheuerell operated a billiard parlor and saloon and lived here between 1874 and 1880 and again from 1900 to 1915. John's son John T. began an undertaking business in Bay View which still bears the family name.

13 William George Bruce House, 1137 S. 3rd St. (1896) Architect: A. C. Seims. NR.

This imposing stone-fronted house was built for one of the South Side's most celebrated and public spirited citizens, William George Bruce (1856-1949). Bruce was a publisher and a well-known historian, and he held numerous civic positions including that of city tax commissioner. Built on the site of his father-in-law's house, Bruce's residence combines such Romanesque features as a rusticated stone facade and arched entry with Palladian windows in the gables, a popular Colonial Revival motif.

South 4th Street.

Originally known as Greenbush Street, South 4th Street was one of the two main residential thoroughfares of Walker's Point. City directory listings seem to indicate that it was developed earlier and settled more densely than South 3rd Street, which became fashionable in the 1870s. Along the street can be found examples of small Greek Revival style cottages, Italianate houses, and Queen Anne residences.

14 1000-1100 Blocks of S. 4th St.

The mixture of Queen Anne style and vernacular cottages and residences along these two blocks date chiefly to the 1870s and 1880s. Most were built as income properties, and sometimes were lived in briefly by their owners. Tenants ranged from laborers to the proprietors of small businesses. The Italianate residence at No. 1137 is typical of these. Built for English-born engineer **Alfred Hinton** around 1874, Hinton lived here for a short time in the 1870s but later rented it out.

15 Seivert Olson House, 323 W. Washington St. (1885). NR.

Ship carpenter Seivert Olson built several houses on his property. This one dates to 1885. The simple Queen Anne style cottage features a fine pierced gable ornament, and the porch spandrel has a sunburst motif, representative of the type of detail once found on many houses in the neighborhood.

